

SNC Reference Number
(enter if previously assigned)

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Fresno

Applicant: Sierra Musick and Arts Institute

Project Title: Musick Creek Watershed Protection Project, part 4

PROJECT GOAL

This is a request for additional funding in continuation of federal and state grants from '04 through '08, totaling \$250,000 to date. We do believe completion is desirable from all points of view. Since compliance, planning and related costs are already dealt with, future funding will go directly to completion of the fuel reduction treatment. We have used a variety of strategies to treat about 100 of our 134 acres. The brush and debris were quite impenetrable at the outset but our labors have yielded ecologically healthy and firesafe areas with many additional benefits to watershed, natural and human communities and local economies. We are using hand (chainsaw) crews along with mini excavator/masticator and specialized (low impact) crawler with a 90hp chipper right alongside the work crews. In this way we avoid much hauling, piling or burning of thinned materials, flinging it directly through the chipper or mini masticator wherever possible. The result is effective and esthetic release of existing older growth and protection of selected extremely valuable seedlings and saplings with minimum required labor. Carbon is retained close to the soil where it belongs, fewer burn piles, more mulch scattered throughout the forest where it can be used on seedlings, ground or roads, or left to reduce naturally. (When markets materialize for the chips, they can be extracted and used for fuel, raw materials, etc. Meanwhile, our excavator contractor, Joe Middleton of North Fork Holistic Management has designed and built a masticator head for a medium small excavator. The maneuverability and economy are high, land impact and size of chipped material are small, which accelerates decay and heightens fire safety. We have documented the project thus far and the results are inspiring. The documentation will also help in monitoring longterm effectiveness. We believe the hand (chainsaw crew w/ chippers) and light mechanical work will give much greater longevity to the treatment (than heavy mechanical) due to more precise and complete work and less disturbance of soil, diminishing reseeding of undesirable brush species. (It is our experience that the heaviest brush was in areas most

disturbed by previous logging or road building episodes.) We have opened up our roads (previously abandoned and overgrown for 20+ years) for easy access and defensible firelines. We are poised for serious completion of effective fuels treatment. Treatment of our acreage is considered critical for watershed and community protection.

PROJECT SCOPE

SNC funding would allow us to complete fuel reduction/fuel break treatment on our acreage on Musick Creek. We have already treated 100 acres. We need to thin brush, debris and trees under 8" in diameter on an additional 25 acres. We also need to revisit 25 acres on which brush, debris and fuel ladders have all been removed but wherein there are still too many trees under 8" in diameter, which need thinned in order to provide fire protection to the surrounding acreage and nearby communities and watersheds. Upon completion of fuels treatment, we would regrade and properly drain existing roads to protect the class I, II and III watersheds on the property and Jose Creek and San Joaquin River to which they are tributary. (Total stream miles treated on the order of 5 miles.) The maps show our acreage as a linchpin in the protection of local watersheds and communities. We continue to work with Calfire and Proposition 40 funding where possible, as well as USFS and Fresno County, with which we share boundaries.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
INCLUDE SPECIFIC TASKS IDENTIFIED IN SCOPE AND ALL REPORTS, ETC.	ASSUME START DATE 60 DAYS AFTER SNC BOARD AUTHORIZATION
heavy fuel treatment, 25 acres	45 days
small diameter tree removal, 25 (different) acres	30 days
road grading, drainage	10 days
6 month/final report	20 days
project completion	105 days (or less)

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
INCLUDE COSTS FOR STAFF, TASKS, DELIVERABLES AND PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASURES	\$90,000
25 acres heavy fuels treated	\$50,000
25 acres small diameter removed	\$15,000
roads graded, drained	\$10,000
administrative budget	\$15,000
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$90,000